

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments before the claim fees are calculated. The claims pending in the subject application after entry of this preliminary amendment are claims 1 to 9.

Specification

The present patent application is a national stage patent application of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/001608, filed 17 February 2005, which claims the benefit of Application No. DE 10 2004 012 998.3, filed 16 March 2004, from which applications the present application claims priority. The amendment to the specification is made solely for the purposes of noting these cross-reference applications explicitly.

Claims

Applicants have amended the claims herein solely for the purpose of eliminating improper multiple dependent claiming, conforming to proper U.S. claim format, and correcting grammar. The Applicants submit that the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Applicants earnestly solicit a formal Notice of Allowance directed to claims 1 to 9.

Respectfully submitted,

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